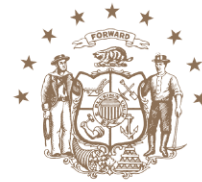




SONDY POPE

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
80TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT



For Immediate Release
October 8, 2015

Contact: Rep. Sondy Pope
608-266-3520

REP. KREMER OFFERS BACKWARDS PROPOSALS REGARDING TRANSGENDER INDIVIDUALS

MADISON – This week, Representative Jesse Kremer (R- Kewaskum) introduced the “bathroom bill,” a bill which would force transgender students to use bathrooms designated for their biological gender. Throughout his argument for the bill, Kremer used reductive and flawed reasoning to support segregation based on gender identity. Representative Sondy Pope (D-Cross Plains) released the following statement in response to Kremer’s remarks:

“In his statement to the CapTimes, Rep. Kremer said, ‘to put it plainly, no student of any gender should be made to feel uncomfortable or threatened in the most private places in our schools.’ Surprisingly, I agree with Rep. Kremer,” said Rep. Pope. “Transgender students are constantly under societal pressure to conform to their pre-assigned gender identity, and are often picked on in public and at school. They are the students we should be protecting from discomfort and threats. We should be ensuring that schools create a safe learning environment, not foster even more hate by using the argument of ‘comfort’ to support discrimination.”

The proposal put forth by Representative Kremer and Senator Stephen Nass (R-Whitewater) would require school boards to assign school bathrooms and locker rooms to one gender only, and force transgender students to use facilities designated for their birth-assigned gender.

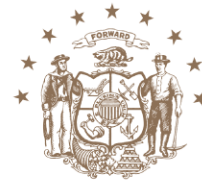
“The arguments made by Rep. Kremer regarding sexual predation are completely illogical. Why would a student subject themselves to the social stigma and discrimination faced by transgender individuals just so they can use a bathroom stall next to opposite-sex students?”

Schools in Wisconsin are already required to report incidences of sexual predation, assault or misconduct that occurs on school grounds to local law enforcement. The bill set forth by Kremer and Nass would not increase security around school bathrooms or locker rooms, but would rather give schools a 30-day period to report an instance of non-segregated bathroom use – an option they already have to prevent sexual predation.



SONDY POPE

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
80TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT



“The purpose of this bill is clear – it has nothing to do with the decreasing the possibility for sexual predators in schools. It instead mirrors the same arguments used for segregating bathrooms in the 1960s, following along with a dangerous societal tradition of treating a group of people who are dissimilar to us as ‘others’ – and labelling them threatening or uncomfortable. But as history tells us, this ‘discomfort’ is not rectified through more discrimination, but rather through careful consideration and a re-evaluation of our own discriminatory beliefs.”

“Discrimination and hateful behavior isn’t innate – it’s learned. If we enact this proposal, we are teaching our students hateful behavior. We, as legislators, are not in the business of supporting discrimination. I hope my fellow legislators have the good sense to defeat this bill – and the discriminating message that accompanies it.”

###